

STAKEHOLDERS and PERSPECTIVES

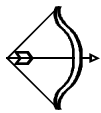
Persons or groups with a vested interest in an issue

Points of view - ways of looking at issues

The stakeholders are affected both by the problem and by the solution.

Note to teachers:

For the conflict resolution activities that follow, these “stakeholder cards” can be photocopied and cut on the lines so that students can “draw” a card rather than simply selecting one with a point of view they find compatible with their own!



HUNTER

This has always been a hunting community. The local people enjoy hunting deer and small game, and we use the meat to feed ourselves and our families. Most of us are not trophy hunters, and we don't get many folks from outside the area who need guides. I am worried that red wolves will deplete the supply of game. Sure, we have a lot of deer around here, but sometimes, if we get a bad winter, the white-tail have a hard time of it. I am also concerned that if red wolves are reintroduced, there will be pressure to stop hunting altogether. Money from hunting licenses is a source of income for the state, and some of that money is used to protect wildlife and habitat. Hunting is a way of life around here. Hunters want to be sure that deer and small game are not stressed by a top predator like the red wolf.

RED WOLF BIOLOGIST



So little is known about red wolves in the wild. Few studies were done, and red wolves were almost extinct before field research could be done and data collected. Red wolves are shy and elusive, and it is hard to do observations of their behavior in the wild. The Captive Breeding Program taught us a lot, but we still have much to learn about this beautiful and tenacious animal. The radio-collared wolves at Alligator River have taught us a lot about how the red wolf lives and hunts and about its pack structure. We are deeply concerned about the potential for the red wolves breeding with resident coyotes. This is a problem for which we are seeking solutions. Coyotes are an exotic species here; they are not native to North Carolina. Red wolves are. High Pines State Park is one of the few areas that is coyote-free, thus making it an ideal recovery site.

FARMER



I have a herd of dairy cattle. My neighbor raises beef cattle and sheep. Our income depends on our livestock. If red wolves live around here and start killing our cattle and sheep, we will lose money. We aren't rich, and we can't afford to lose livestock. We have enough trouble with coyotes around here as it is. But at least it's not against the law to shoot a coyote. But red wolves are endangered. I could go to jail or have to pay a big fine if I kill a red wolf. Maybe both. I don't have anything against wolves or any other wild animal. But something has to be done to make sure my interests are protected if wolves are restored to this area. I just barely get by some years as it is, and red wolves would just add to my list of worries.



RESORT OWNER

I depend on visitors to the High Pines State Park. The park attracts hikers, river runners, and hunters. Families come because of the recreational opportunities in the park. I admit I have a few concerns about public safety. We don't have to worry much about bears around here except when people ignore common sense and leave food around. We have heard that red wolves are shy and stay away from people. But what if they lose their fear of humans? Could there be problems? Would people try to attract them with food so they could see them and take pictures? The whole idea of having red wolves in this area kind of intrigues me, but some plan would have to be worked out so the public would accept them but so they wouldn't try to get them to hang around campsites like dogs. Red wolves might actually be good for business because we could sell mugs and t-shirts in our gift shop. We could even help with an education program if someone would sponsor one.